

Draco blanfordi and its Allies

By MALCOLM A. SMITH

From the Dept. of Zoology, British Museum (Natural History)

PLATE VIII

The acquisition by the British Museum of a collection of lizards from the northern part of the Malay Peninsula, has made it possible to clear up some points with regard to *Draco blanfordi*, *D. taeniopterus* and *D. formosus*, species which are closely allied to, and have often been confused with, one another. All three are to be found together in the Nakon Sritamarat Mountains, Peninsular Siam.

Failure to recognize that the "wing" pattern of the female of *blanfordi* can be entirely different to that of the male, led me to identify two specimens in my own collection as "unusually large" examples of *D. taeniopterus* (Smith, Fauna Brit. India, II, p. 140) and led Boulenger to describe *D. cyanolaemus*, which can now certainly be placed in the synonymy of *blanfordi*. The figure of *cyanolaemus*, reproduced in his "Reptiles of the Malay Peninsula", p. 60, shews the "wing"-coloration in its most extreme form; in other individuals the transverse bars are merely indicated, or are restricted to a black reticulation upon the outer margins of the patagia. This coloration is never present in the male.

Draco formosus was described by Boulenger from two specimens, a male and a female, which were obtained in the Larut Hills, Perak. The male represents the species which in all later publications he identified with *formosus*, but the female is again an example of *blanfordi* with a strongly marked "wing" pattern.

My *Draco indochinensis*, at present known only from female specimens, may ultimately prove to be a race of *blanfordi*, differing in the coloration of the "wing" and in having a black bar across the throat.¹

The following characters will help to distinguish the species. The measurements are based on the material in the British Museum collection.

Nostril directed straight upwards;
the hind-limb reaches to the axilla
or beyond; patagia with well defined,
jet black cross-bars; from
snout to vent ♂ ♀ 78 mm. *taeniopterus*.

Nostril directed straight upwards;
the hind limb reaches to the axilla;
patagia with ill-defined, sometimes
obscure, blackish or dark brown
cross-bars; from snout to vent ♂ ♀
100 mm. *formosus*.

Nostril directed straight upwards, or
upwards and slightly outwards;
the hind-limb reaches to the axilla
or not so far; patagia of ♂ with
fine white lines longitudinally
arranged, of ♀ with more or less
well defined black cross-bars which
may be restricted to a black reticu-
lation at the outer margin; from
snout to vent, ♂ 130, ♀ 112 mm. *blanfordi*.

PLATE VIII

Fig. 1. *Draco taeniopterus*. B.M. 1915. 8.14.8-9.

Fig. 2. *Draco formosus*. B.M. 1921. 4.1.99-101.

Fig. 3. *Draco blanfordi*. B.M. 1906. 2.28.3.

¹ Since this note was written I have seen Hennig's "Revision der Gattung *Draco*", Temminckia, 1936. I cannot agree with his proposal that *indochinensis*, which he has not seen, is a race of *taeniopterus*.